

About the author

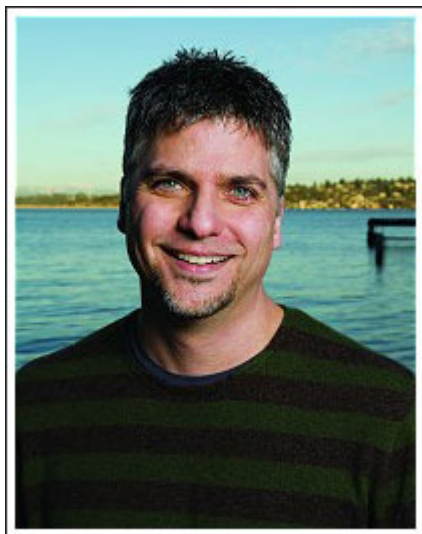


Photo by Frank Huster, taken from author's website.

Garth Stein

Garth Stein is an author and filmmaker who lives in Seattle. He comes from an ethnically diverse background – his ancestors include Jews in Austria, Tlingit, and Irish.

His Tlingit ancestry played heavily into his first novel, *Raven stole the moon*, which was published in 1998. The book is set in a small Alaskan community, where Seattleite Jenna encounters a shape-shifting, soul-stealing *kushtaka* from Tlingit legends.

After his second book, *How Evan broke his head and other secrets*, received mixed reviews, *The art of racing in a rain*, proved to be a blockbuster. *Art of racing* was auctioned to book publisher Harper for \$1,200,000, and posted more sales in its first week than Stein's first two books had posted overall.

After the success of *Art of racing*, Stein went on to co-found Seattle7Writers, a “nonprofit collective of Pacific Northwest authors whose mission is to foster and support a passion for the written word in our community and everywhere.” Stein currently lives in Seattle with his wife, three sons, and their dog, Comet.^{1,2}

¹ Garth Stein. *Contemporary Authors Online*. Retrieved April 22, 2014, from Literature Resource Center (GALE | H1000162993). Available from <http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CH1000162993&v=2.1&u=burl53467&it=r&p=LitRC&sw=w&asid=433fdcb4493cee0b27f74ea72e603a9d>

² About Garth. In *Author Garth Stein*. Retrieved April 22, 2014, from <http://www.garthstein.com/bio.php>

Discussion questions

- Some early readers of the novel have observed that viewing the world through a dog's eyes makes for a greater appreciation of being human. Why do you think this is?
- How does Enzo's philosophy apply to real life?
- Can you imagine the novel being told from Denny's point of view? How would it make the story different?
- In the first chapter, Enzo says: "It's what's inside that's important. The soul. And my soul is very human." How does Enzo's situation--a human soul trapped in a dog's body--influence his opinions about what he sees around him? How do you feel about the ideas of reincarnation and karma as Enzo defines them?
- Do you find yourself looking at dogs differently after reading this novel?
- In the book, we get glimpses into the mindset and mentality of a race car driver. What parallels can you think of between the art of racing and the art of living?

Questions taken from the author's reading guide

Available at http://www.garthstein.com/arr/readers_guide.php

Further reading

More by Garth Stein:

Raven stole the moon : a novel / Garth Stein. New York : Harper, 1998. 445 pages.

How Evan broke his head and other secrets : a novel / Garth Stein. New York : Soho Press, c2004. 359 pages.

Similar reads:

The plague dogs, by Richard Adams

A dog's purpose, by W. Bruce Cameron

Roam, by Alan Lazar

Three bags full, by Leonie Swann

The story of Edgar Sawtelle, by David Wroblewski